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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OFFICER

AT ASTORIA.

1876.

NINTH REGULAR SESSION—1876.

SALEM, OREGON:
MART. V. BROWN, STATE PRINTER.
1876.

REPORT.

ASTORIA, Oregon, September 1, 1876.

Hon. L. F. Grover, Governor—SIR: Since my last report there have been no diseases of a contagious character coming under my notice, at this port, requiring the exercise of quarantine regulations. I might say, however, that during this time most of the seaports in communication with this harbor, excepting the recent outbreak of small-pox in San Francisco, have, so far as my knowledge extends, been comparatively free from infection.

From a careful examination as to the sanitary condition and health of the passengers and crews of vessels from Asiatic and other foreign ports, I have to report that I find no contagious diseases from this source. All such, or nearly so, that have come under my observation have been by ocean steamer, or other coasting vessels, from San Francisco, during the recent epidemic that has and still prevails there. I have made careful examination, by personal inspection and inquiry, of all vessels arriving from that port, as I did in the recent case of the John L. Stephens, and I pronounce the charges made against me by the press as base and malicious falsehoods, made without any knowledge of the facts in the case. I have at all times endeavored to discharge the duties of office with fidelity and to the best of my ability.

The law is defective in some respects. The penalties for disobedience by masters and others in charge of vessels should be made higher, and should extend to all persons mentioned in the Act, in a sum sufficient to insure respect to the law; and a sufficient number of the laws, so amended, be printed, in pamphlet form, for distribution to pilots and masters of vessels on entering the port.

I would further recommend the purchase of grounds by the State for quarantine purposes, and the erection of suitable buildings thereon for the accommodation of persons infected with disease.

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. W. DODD, M. D.,

Health Officer.